

FALCONS

Falcon wing shape: _____
tail shape: _____

Write each bird's identifying characteristics in each box.



peregrine

--



American
kestrel

--



merlin

--

BUTEOS

Buteo wing shape: _____
tail shape: _____

Write each bird's identifying characteristics in each box.

broad-winged hawk



--

red-shouldered hawk



--

red-tailed hawk



--



rough-legged hawk

--

hawk count:

Check hawkcount.org.



Broad-winged hawk:
*mostly brown on top
*white underside
*white bands on tail





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Red-shouldered hawk:

- *reddish head
- *red body w/white
- *red upper wings above and below
- banded tail



red-tailed hawk

- *mostly white underneath

- *brown on top

- *red tail from above, grey/
white below

Broad-winged hawk



*banded tail
*looks a lot like
red-tailed, but
tail is the difference!



red tail (or no bands on underside of tail?)

yes

red-tailed hawk

no

red on belly/wings?

yes

red-shouldered hawk

no

large wing spots on
middle of wing?

yes

rough-legged
hawk

no

broad-winged
hawk



peregrine

- *1 malar stripe
- *white with spots on belly
- *bluish color on back



American kestrel



- *3 malar stripes
- *reddish & blue colors on top
- *grey with black bands on bottom of wing
- *reddish color on body



merlin



- *no malar stripes
- *brown & white underneath

any malar stripes?

yes

no

1 or 3 malar stripes?

merlin

one

peregrine falcon

3

American kestrel

malar stripes:

Merlin has none (he's a wizard - he made them disappear)

kestrel has 3 (there's a t in kestrel and three)

peregrine has 1 (he's the only one left)

Use www.whatbird.com to make notes about the three accipiters.

Make a dichotomous key.

Cooper's

reddish
(rufous)
belly

Goshawk

white
w/ grey
spots

Sharpie